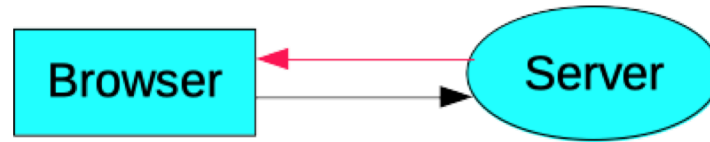


# Ruthless Principles for Digital Longevity

Presenter Stewart Arneil, co-authors Martin Holmes, Greg Newton  
for the Endings project  
University of Victoria, Canada

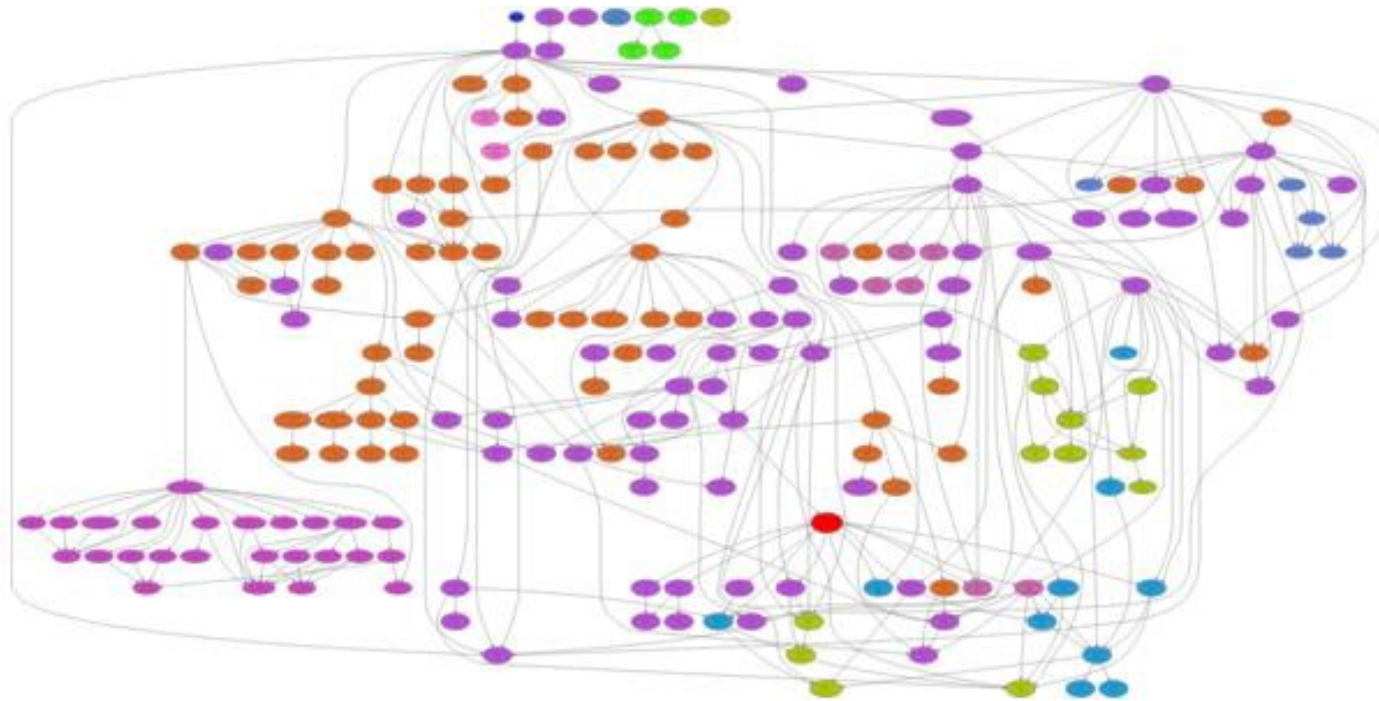
# Ruthless Disclosure

- What we'd like to think is going on:



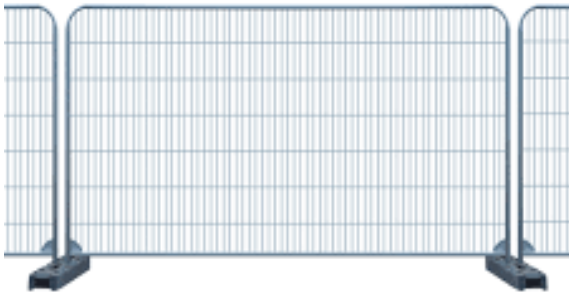
# Ruthless Disclosure

- What might well be going on:



# Ruthless Disclosure

## Team Scope



UVic is 1/10 KCL

## Partner Resources



modest to Stanford

## Technology



stable? ask Rosenzweig

# Ruthless Experiences (Everyone)

- Endings project survey and interviews on what went wrong reveal:
  - Technical / security problems with your stuff
  - Technical / security problems with stuff your stuff depends on
  - Administrative / institutional support fails
  - Key personnel or skills lost
  - Financial issues

# Ruthless Experiences (Us)

- We have chosen poorly
- We have chosen wisely
- Endings project's ruthless questionnaire  
<https://hcmc.uvic.ca/endings/questionnaire.htm>
- Many of our own projects don't do well



# Ruthless Strategies

- Endings project proposes stiff medicine



# Ruthless Strategies - Workflow

- Separate **Data, Processing, Products** and their treatments
- **Document** (and Diagnose) rigorously
- Manage **Releases**



# Ruthless Strategies - Products

- Ruthless: Valid HTML, Cascading Style Sheets, JavaScript
- Not ruthless: database, server-side scripts, black-box libraries
- Concessions: e.g. complex search, map tilesets, cryptography



# Ruthless Principles

- Choose dependencies consciously, frugally
- Apply wisely to each aspect of project
- Aim for virtually zero long-term maintenance needs
- Embrace the implications of providing for longevity
- Details : <https://projectendings.github.io/principles>



# Conclusion

- Your project's ideal ruthless outputs:



<https://projectendings.github.io>